

Mayor's Council on African American Elders

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Meeting Summary

February 17, 2012

Members Present – Kameka Brown, Chair, Gwendolyn Coates, Marti Lindeman, Michael Lusk, Helen Sikov

Members Excused: Cynthia Andrews, Carolyn Johnson Davis

Staff – Karen Winston, Maureen Linehan

I. **Members Questionnaire Results** (See attached)

Kameka began the meeting by discussing the results from the 2012 Member Questionnaire. Other comments – Marti added that she would like the council to be more involved in advocacy and would like meetings to be held off-site at the Central Area Senior Center. Michael would like members to support kinship care.

II. **MCAAE Recruitment**

Karen has two letters/resumes from individuals seeking appointment to the MCAAE, however, one is from Snohomish County. Kameka agreed to follow-up with members and schedule an interview with Margaret Boddie. When this is completed, Karen will contact Margaret to confirm. Members were asked to continue identifying interested persons. Michael added that he would like every member to be responsible for recruiting one person. He also asked for the information to be included in the next issue of AgeWise King County, the on-line seniors digest. Karen agreed to have the information posted.

III. **ADS Update**

ADS Director - Maureen Linehan, Interim ADS Director, updated members on ADS/HSD activities. A second round of interviews for the ADS Director took place on February 9. Five individuals were interviewed. Next, the top two candidates will be interviewed by the ADS Sponsors, City Council and the Mayor. Once the ADS director position is filled several additional openings will need to be filled including the ADS Operations Manager and the Case Management Program Director.

HSD Reorganization - HSD recently announce a department reorganization which will be aligned to support the department's mission, goals and future state objectives. In ADS, changes were made to the mid-management structure and reporting.

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Kinship Care – Beginning January 1, 2012, the Kinship program moved from Senior Services and will be administered by Catholic Community Services (CCS) for one year. The Kinship Navigator position and support staff (Helen Sawyer and Barb Wiley) also moved to CCS. Kinship fund allocations for goods and services were moved in-house. Strict internal controls are now in place. Use of funds include needs of the children, such as clothing, rental assistance, beds, etc. Gift cards will no longer be issued. Instead, there will only be third party (vendor) payments. A request for proposal (RFP) process for the Kinship Navigator and services will be launched this spring/summer.

IV. 2012 Retreat

Kameka would like to delay the retreat to allow for any new members to be appointed. Members agreed to tentatively schedule an all-day retreat for May 4th.

V. Committee Reports

Legislative Advocacy – Gwendolyn reported that on February 13 the Governor signed SB6239 into law which provides for same-sex marriage and allows religious clerics and religious institutions a clear exemption from having to perform or provide for any same-sex marriage.

On February 16 the revenue forecast was \$96 million higher than the previous forecast but legislators still face a \$1 billion shortfall for public health, education and many other vital programs. Revenue options will still be crucial in protecting necessary programs.

Closing day or “Sine Die” (Latin for “last day”) of the session is March 8th. What is known is that the House will lead, and it is estimated that its budget will be released either on the 20th or the 21st. It is then expected that the Senate’s budget will be out by the 27th or 28th, if not sooner. The one revenue package that raises the most is the governor’s ½-cent temporary (3 years) sales tax increase. This raises about \$500 million per year, and the revenues come in to the state treasury almost immediately. Because of Initiative 1053, it would have to have a 2/3 majority vote of each chamber, or else go to the voters with a simple majority vote of the legislature.

Karen reminded members that Senior Lobby Day in Olympia is scheduled for Thursday, February 23. ADS is providing transportation. If anyone would like a ride please let her know as soon as possible.

Digital Communications Committee – Marti reported, as of February 17, the MCAAE Facebook page now has 203 Likes; 91 Active Users; and about 1,375 individuals viewing posts to the page from all over the country. Revisions to the MCAAE website are still on hold.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

2012 MCAAE Member Questionnaire Results

1. Dream BIG! What would you like the MCAAE to do during 2012?

RESPONSES:

- a) Continue to have annual legislative forums or candidate forums.
- b) Plan an event in collaboration with the AAEP.
- c) I would like to see us actually meet with the Mayor to learn of his understanding of current issues for elders in communities of color.
- d) Expand the visibility of African American elders beyond care—to quality of life and their contributions to the community. Promote more opportunities for inter-generational celebrations/activities/programs. More support to elder guardians caring for biological child relatives. Recognition that really matters and get public and get public attention.

2. What organizations should the MCAAE partner with to help African American elders?

RESPONSES:

- a) African American Elders Program
- b) Churches
- c) Senior advocacy groups (AARP, Puget Sound Alliance for Retired Persons, etc.)
- d) Odessa Brown Clinic, Carolyn Downs Clinic, Harborview Senior Clinic
- e) Solid Ground
- f) The Links
- g) Sound Heart
- h) Therapeutic Health Services
- i) SeaMar
- j) University of WA, School of Social Work; School of Nursing; School of Public Health
- k) Greater Seattle Church Council
- l) Black Clergy of WA
- m) I think there are good partnerships already with the organizations that the members represent.
- n) Organizations that will support/promote/celebrate AA elders. That will increase support and viability of AA elder issues and all elder living isolated, undernourished, disabled and disconnected from love and caring people.
- o) Organizations that can support veterans, homeless and mentally ill elders.

3. What approaches should we use to recruit new members?

- a) I like the meet and greet session we had in December. Perhaps another one in a different location.
- b) Do presentations at professional gatherings; meet with Black politicians; professionals in healthcare; send announcements to select groups and follow-up with them.
- c) I don't recall having been given a document that suggests the skills, education, background, and characteristics of potential Board members, it is helpful when contemplating who would be an important addition at any particular time given current members.
- d) Take LeAuna Davis under serious consideration, or you will pass on a fundamental with awesome on the job insights. She does in home physical therapy, she's been in the facilities and has firsthand knowledge of issues.
- e) One-on-one outreach events.

4. Do you like the current meeting date?

60% (3) - Yes, I prefer not to change it.

40% (2) - No, I would like to change it.

5. If your response to #4 was NO, please suggest other dates/times.

- a) 1 - 2:30pm or end the day 4 - 5:30pm. Second Fridays are fine. First and last weeks of the month are bad. Conference call meetings would save gas, travel time and make it an easy option when necessary to ensure good attendance.
- b) Fridays @10 AM

6. Would you be willing to conduct meetings through conference calling? 100% YES.

7. Other comments:

- a) Thanks for asking for input from members.
- b) The group will need to get to trust each other and their motives for becoming a part of the MCAAE, or the focus will be lost.
- c) I would hate to see too much conference calling. I think it is important for people to sit across the table to discuss important issues.
- d) The time of day and location downtown has been challenging for me. Conference calling would help, but in person meetings are very important.